

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 5 October 2006

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Wallace Gernt, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, Ph.D., Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly

Excused Absence: Maria Gil, Denise Panichas

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and

Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of the 25 May 2006, 7 September 2006 and 21 September 2006 Project Review Committee-II meetings were approved as submitted. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by seven in favor and none opposed (7-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Gernt, Graziano, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of Newport Hospital for a Certificate of Need to establish a Diagnostic Imaging Center in Portsmouth to provide radiology services, including Digital Mammography, Ultrasound, CT and MRI services. Staff's analysis on need and a state map delineating existing providers was handed out.

Staff discussed how the data was collected and how the analysis was conducted. Staff noted that this data was self-reported by providers and that the analysis was based on the data by those providers who

completed the survey. There are 11 hospitals and 45 outpatient-based facilities providing a mix of MRI, CT and/or Mammography services. Including existing and approved units there will be 49 MRI units, 49 CT units, and 52 Mammography units. Staff noted that it utilized the annual average growth from 2001-2005 to project future need which would assume a consistent growth rate for all modalities in the future and utilized the average utilization rate as the capacity future which may be below the actual capacity. The projections showed a need for 1 MRI, excess supply of at least 5 CT, and 0.1 Mammography units in 2008.

Staff noted that their need analysis is different from the applicant's and that the applicant has not provided to staff the data from the IMV report on which the applicant based their analysis due to copyright issues.

The Committee requested that staff revise their analysis to project future need utilizing linear regression analysis instead of averages and that a need analysis be performed for Newport Hospital's service area in addition to a statewide analysis.

The applicant reviewed their responses to follow up questions. To the question regarding the proposed location of the imaging center next to an existing mammography provider the applicant noted that in the case of sending patients to another facility the quality and continuity of care would be lacking. The exam in a digital mammography unit is

much faster and more comfortable for the patient.

To the question regarding the lower amount of free mammography scans, when compared to CT and MRI, being performed at Newport Hospital, the applicant stated that they were not sure they can explain the gap but do know that there are a number of accounts for charity care that have not been written off and included in the data. The difference between modalities is that there are many regulations surrounding the insurance coverage of mammography services.

The applicant discussed that the levels of MRI and CT services has continued to increase and the hospital is reaching capacity and stated for the record that the figures for volumes exceed the average capacity volumes that the staff cited in their report. Newport Hospital is operating at a higher capacity than the national level.

Regarding waiting times the applicant noted that it depends on the severity of the situation, and on average it takes 5-6 days, with emergency exams done immediately.

The Chairman thanked the applicant for their cooperation and for answering the questions. Staff noted that the Committee will meet on 12 October 2006.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova